

Telegraph  
Herald  
Dubuque, IA  
Circ. 30145  
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5/24/2005  
41668



# Great Places forum details Iowa initiative

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Natural beauty, comfortable public spaces, a vibrant arts and cultural district. These are some of the ideas of what makes a destination "great" that were brought to the table during Monday's Iowa Great Places forum.

About 100 people attended the meeting at the Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium, including Lt. Gov. Sally Pederson, Cultural Affairs Director Anita Walker and Sen. Mike Connolly, D-Dubuque.

Walker said Great Places is designed to attract all people, young and old, to a destination.

According to Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack, the characteristics of a Great Place are:

- ✓ A unique sense of place.
- ✓ Engaging experiences.
- ✓ A rich social fabric.

To learn more about the Iowa Great Places project visit,  
**[www.iowagreatplaces.gov](http://www.iowagreatplaces.gov)**

- ✓ A vital economy.
- ✓ A pleasing environment.
- ✓ A strong foundation, or infrastructure.
- ✓ A creative culture.

Three pilot Great Places will be chosen by a citizen advisory council, which includes Dubuque's Leisure Services Manager Gil Spence, by Oct. 1.

Patrick Kennedy, of Dubuque, offered his vision of a drive-in movie theater/entertainment center, including a play area for children, live, open-air theater and miniature golf.

"I'm on a mission to help people through this concept," Kennedy said.